



Hemyock Parish Council

Newsletter

WELCOME to the first issue of our Parish Council Newsletter. We intend to publish 2 issues each year in order to keep our community informed of the council's activities.

Parish Councils take on more responsibilities

As government austerity cuts reduce the funding for county and district councils certain responsibilities are being passed on to parish councils including grass cutting, public toilets and car parks.

village public toilets.

The Parish Council will have to take on staff or pay for contractors to maintain the toilets and the grass verges within the parish.

In Hemyock your Parish Council has been asked by Mid Devon District Council to contribute £600 per year to the upkeep of the village car park and is endeavouring to take over the running of the

These extra costs will have to be met by an increase in the parish precept next year of just over £1 per month for the average household in Hemyock.

Meet Your Parish Councillors

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Meet your parish councillors at Hemyock Saturday Markets and other events. The markets are held in the Parish Hall every third Saturday in the month between 10 a.m. and noon. One or more of your parish councillors will usually be present, keen to hear your

views and any questions you may have.



The Parish Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month, 7.30 pm in the Parish Hall. Agendas are displayed on the noticeboards outside the SPAR and in the car park, and on the village website, hemyock.org.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Come along and find out what's going on in the parish at 7.30 p.m. on **Friday 29th April** in the Parish Hall, with cheese and wine.

Introducing Your Councillors:

1. Councillor Neil Punnett



Neil is retired. He has 35 years experience in education including 20 as a senior manager in colleges of further education.

He is the author and co-author of 35 educational

textbooks. He was the company secretary of the Bridgwater College Multi-Academy Trust. Neil moved to Hemyock 18 years ago. He is the secretary of Hemyock Cricket Club and of the Upper Culm Community Land

Trust.

In May 2015 he was elected to the Parish Council and has been appointed the chair of the finance committee.

2. Councillor Lance Povah



Lance qualified as a Chartered Quantity Surveyor with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in 1971. He has worked in the local area since 1973 as a quantity surveyor, both in the private and public sectors and in most areas of construction in-

cluding highways, civil engineering and utilities.

Lance has three children who were all educated at Hemyock Primary School and Uffculme Secondary School and he has lived in Hemyock for over 40 years.

He is a keen walker and cyclist and has been a Parish Councillor for 30 years. He is responsible for looking after the parish's footpaths with his team of volunteers.

Lighting Up Hemyock at Christmas

Congratulations to the Hemyock Lights Brigade!

Congratulations to all involved in the Hemyock Lights Brigade for their tremendous success in bringing Christmas cheer to our village.

The Parish Council made a small contribution to the success of the Lights Brigade's displays by granting £250 which part-funded the large star installed on St Mary's church tower.



What the Parish Council Funds

The Parish Council directly funds:

- the village cemetery
- Footpaths and bridleways
- the maintenance of the Longmead leisure complex
- management of the commons
- public seats
- general village maintenance
- parish noticeboards

- grass cutting
- grants to local clubs and organisations including the Young Farmers Club, Blackdown Healthy Living Centre, Citizens Advice Bureau, Blackdown Support Group, the *Parish Pump* parish magazine, Hemyock Football Club and Hemyock Cricket Club.
- Purchases of equipment for use in the parish such as road salt spreaders and defibrillators.

Hemyock Parish Plan

The Parish Council has held three Open Meetings to allow discussion of issues facing our community. The first meeting concerned Access, Traffic and Community Transport. Issues raised included:

- Need for a lay-by on Pencross Hill
- Parking around the Post Office
- Pot holes on roads, especially Prowses and Castle Park
- Car sharing
- Bus frequency
- Pavements around the SPAR
- Vehicle activated speed signs

The second meeting concerned Environment, Leisure and Recreation. Issues raised included:

- Protection of local assets e.g. Pub, P.O., Longmead
- Litter, especially at Longmead
- Skateboard park
- New sites for the Surgery and the School

- Local walks booklet
- New information boards with history of Hemyock, maps etc.
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Film Club at the Garages
- Internet problems
- Public toilets

At the third meeting Mid Devon District Council's Forward Planning Officer Forward Planning Officer gave a presentation on future housing projects in the Mid Devon district and indicated that only 10 open market houses are allocated to Hemyock in their draft Plan.

The next step will be to prepare a questionnaire to be sent to all households the answers to which will help to form the basis for the Parish Plan.

ANY person or organisation is very welcome to take part in helping to develop proposals for the Parish Plan. Please contact the Parish Clerk, Donna Evans (contact details on Page 4).

Devon County Council's telephone number for the public to report any lights that are not working, pot holes, blocked gulleys and any other road maintenance issues is **0345 155 1004** Lines are open 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 9am to 1pm Saturday.
Or report the problem on line - new.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/



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Speedwatch

In response to complaints from parishioners about speeding in the village, the Parish Council is setting up a Speedwatch group with the support of Devon & Cornwall Police.

Speeding vehicles will be recorded and warning letters will be sent to the vehicle owner together with educational information. Persistent offenders will receive a further warning letter, and possibly a visit from their local neighbourhood policing team to deliver some words of advice. Offenders that ignore the warnings will not receive any further letters, but will be given a fixed penalty ticket or summonsed to court.

The Parish Council's Christmas Decorations Competition

Congratulations to the winners of the Parish Council's Christmas Decorations competition. Dennis Gubb won first prize of £25, Ian Pike was runner up and received a prize of £15. The Hemyock Lights Brigade won the prize for best business or club.

Your Parish Councillors

Hemyock Parish Council consists of ten local residents who were elected as councillors for a four year term of office in the May 2015 election, five of whom were elected for the first time.



Front Row left to right: **Jocelyn Pritchard, Penny Lawrence, Paul Doble, Donna Evans (Parish Clerk), Heather Stallard (Chair), Lance Povah.**

Back Row left to right: **Roy Calcraft, Nick Moon, Simon Clist (Vice Chair), Tim Barton, Neil Punnett**